

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

District 7

COAL NONFATAL

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
(Underground Coal Mine)

COAL (PILLAR) OUTBURST

Mine No. 4 (I.D. No. 01-01247)
Jim Walter Resources, Incorporated
Brookwood, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

May 6, 1986

by

Bobby R. Horton
Coal Mine Inspector

and

Kenneth W. Ely
Coal Mine Inspector

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Originating Office - Mine Safety and Health Administration
228 West Valley Avenue; Birmingham, Alabama 35209
John E. Weekly, Subdistrict Manager

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Authority—This report is based on an investigation made pursuant to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, Public Law 95-173, as amended by Public Law 95-164.

Section A—Identification Data

1. Title of investigation: Coal (Pillar) Outburst	2. Date MSHA investigation started: March 6, 1986
3. Report release date: July 15, 1986	4. Mine: No. 4 Mine
5. Mine ID number: 01-01247	6. Company: Jim Walter Resources, Incorporated
7. Town, County, State: Brookwood, Tuscaloosa, Alabama	8. Author(s): Bobby R. Horton, Kenneth W. Ely

Section B—Mine Information

9. Daily production: 8,000 tons	10. Surface employment: 120
11. Underground employment: 653	12. Name of coalbed: Blue Creek
13. Thickness of coalbed: 60" to 84"	

Section C—Last Quarter Injury Frequency Rate (HSAC) for:

14. Industry: Fourth quarter 1986, 7.10	15. This operation: 5.78
16. Training program approved: Yes	17. Mine Profile Rating: N/A

Section D—Originating Office

18. Mine Safety and Health Administration Coal Mine Health and Safety District No. : 7	Address: P.O. Box 572; Barbourville, Kentucky 40906
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Section E—Abstract

On Tuesday, May 6, 1986 at approximately 9:30 p.m., a coal outburst occurred in the tailgate entries of the No. 3 longwall. The outburst occurred when coal was suddenly released from around the pillars of coal which supports the entries along the return which serves the No. 3 longwall panel.

Section F—Mine Organization

Company officials:	Name	Address
19. President:	William Carr	P. O. Box C-79 Birmingham, Alabama 35283
20. Superintendent:	Jesse Cooley	Route 1, Box 11650 Brookwood, Alabama 35444
21. Safety Director:	Joe Bell	Route 1, Box 11650 Brookwood, Alabama 35444
22. Principle officer—H&S:	Jesse Cooley	Route 1, Box 11650 Brookwood, Alabama 35444
23. Labor Organization:	U. M. W. A.	1200 4th Avenue South Birmingham, Alabama 35233
24. Chairman—H&S Committee:	Mike Price	4527 18th Avenue, Apartment 1226 Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405

COMMENTARY

On Tuesday, May 6, 1986 at approximately 3:00 p.m., the No. 3 longwall section crew, under the supervision of William Wilson, Section Foreman, entered the mine, traveled by portal bus and arrived on the No. 3 longwall section at approximately 3:35 p.m. Wilson examined the working face before equipment was energized. Upon finding no abnormal conditions, Wilson then assigned the crew members their respective duties.

Work was started at approximately 4:15 p.m. to change a motor on the tailgate drive of the longwall. Normal mining operations were resumed at 4:55 p.m. and continued until 7:40 p.m. when the shear showed a ground in the power cable. Repair work was started immediately on the power cable to the longwall shear, located near the tailgate drive.

At approximately 9:00 p.m., Wilson traveled outby in the tailgate entry for a distance of approximately 60 feet to check a pneumatic water pump and observed no abnormal conditions. He then checked repair work on the shear and traveled to the headgate entry. At approximately 9:30 p.m., there was a loud noise and a tremendous amount of air and dust traveling from the tailgate to the headgate entry. The force knocked Lloyd Felts, Maintenance Supervisor, down causing injury to his shoulder.

Wilson and the crew left the section and arrived on the surface at approximately 10:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

1. The No. 3 longwall section is retreat type mining.
2. The No. 3 longwall section uses a single split type ventilation.
3. An on-shift examination of the area was conducted approximately 30 minutes preceeding the occurrence and no abnormal conditions were observed.
4. The area had previously been supported by regularly installed roof bolts and rib bolts. Supplementary support consisting of timbers and cribs had been installed through the affected area.
5. The coal which had become loose from the ribs was observed in the three entries along the tailgate of the No. 3 longwall for a distance of approximately 300 feet in each entry.
6. Four men were in the process of performing maintenance on the No. 3 longwall when they heard a loud noise and then experienced an onrush of air and dust from the return area. Lloyd Felts, Maintenance Supervisor, suffered a broken collarbone as a result of being knocked down.
7. Several of the workmen along the longwall and in the headgate area were blown down from the concussion created from the coal outburst.
8. Vibrations were felt on the surface at the mine manager's office, a distance of approximately 5,000 feet along the surface.

9. The No. 3 and No. 4 mine fans, which are located on the same return air shaft, are provided with a monitoring system which shut the No. 3 mine fan off and gave an alarm due to the vibration.

FINDING OF FACT

1. An investigation of the area was conducted revealing no violations of Title 30, CFR, Part 75 which would have contributed to the cause of the occurrence.

CONCLUSION

The investigation of the area on the tailgate of the No. 3 longwall indicated that an outburst of coal had occurred involving approximately 12 pillars of coal.

Willard E. Querry
District Manager

Bobby Horton
Bobby Horton

John C. Weekly
Subdistrict Manager

Kenneth W. Ely
Kenneth W. Ely

APPENDIX

The following persons furnished information and/or were present during the investigation:

Jim Walter Resources, Incorporated Officials

J. T. Piper	Senior Vice President-Operations
Fred Carr	Vice President of Engineering
Jesse Cooley	Mine Manager
Rich Donnelly	Deputy Mine Manager
Danny Hagood	Senior Mining Engineer
James Jones	Ventilation Engineer
Don Sims	Longwall Manager
Keith Shalvey	Day Shift Mine Foreman
Tom Robinette	Assistant Mine Foreman
Frankie Lee	Maintenance Superintendent
Larry Taft	Safety Inspector
Eddie Nicholson	Safety Inspector
Bob Hendrix	Safety Inspector
Wyatt Andrews	Safety Inspector
Lloyd Felts	Maintenance Foreman

Jim Walter Resources, Incorporated Employees

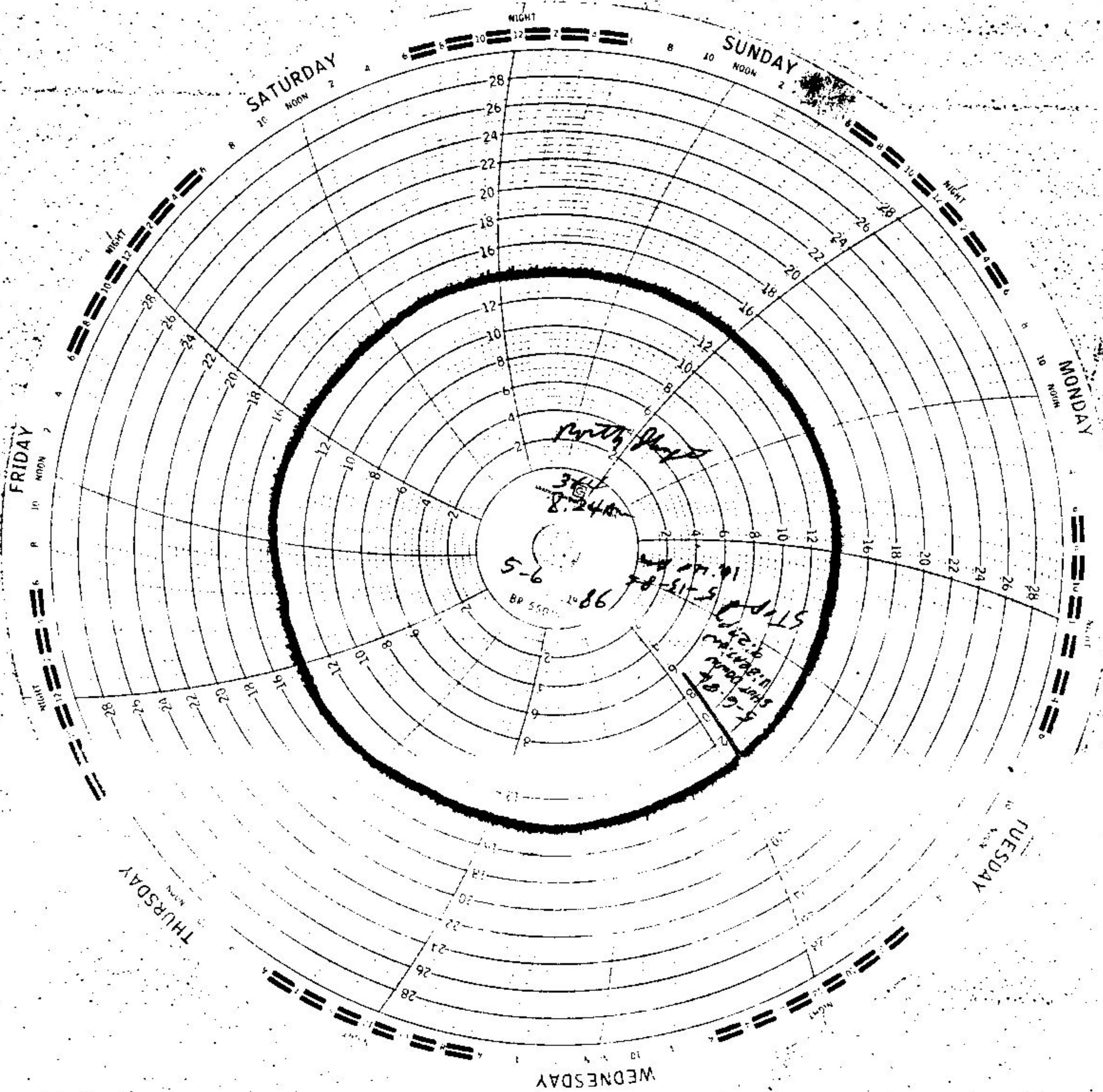
Lee Green	Electrician
Al Damn	Shield Puller
Rayburn Vandiver	Shield Puller
Teresa King	Laborer
Elmer Blankingship	Shear Operator
Mike Bunchfield	Shield Puller
David McAteer	Shear Operator
Brenda Wright	Laborer
Warren Blaken	Shield Puller
Tim Bradford	Laborer

State of Alabama

Jerry Scharf	Chief, Safety Inspection
Don Keith	Inspector

Mine Safety and Health Administration

John E. Weekly	Subdistrict Manager
William Meadows	Supervisory Mining Engineer
Jerry Early	Supervisory Coal Mine Inspector
Jerry Vann	Coal Mine Inspector (Ventilation)
Tom Meredith	Coal Mine Inspector (Ventilation)
Kenneth Ely	Coal Mine Inspector (Ventilation)
Bobby Horton	Coal Mine Inspector (Roof Control)
Jack Downey	Coal Mine Inspector
Cloyd Blankenship	Mining Engineer



U. S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration



Copy To MSHA Inspector

Form Approved, OMB No. 1219-0007, Expires September 1985

● Section A - Identification Data

MSHA ID Number 01-01247 Contractor I.D. Report Category ☐ Metal/Nonmetal Mining ☒ Coal Mining ☐ Check here if report pertains to contractor.
Mine Name Company Name

No. 4 Jim Walter Resources, Inc.

● Section B - Complete for Each Reportable Accident Immediately Reported to MSHA

1. Accident Code (circle applicable code - see instructions) 01 - Death 02 - Serious Injury 03 - Entrapment
04 - Inundation 05 - Gas or Dust Ignition 06 - Mine Fire 07 - Explosives 08 - Roof Fall
09 - Outburst 10 - Impounding Dam 11 - Hoisting 12 - Offsite Injury

2. Name of Investigator 3. Date Investigation Started 4. Steps Taken to Prevent Recurrence of Accident

E. Nicholson, B. Hendrix B. Meadows, J. Early Section idled and men withdraw
R. Donnelly, T. Robinette J. Weekly, J. Sharfe pending investigation
J. Cooley, J. Vann, T. Meredith

● Section C - Complete for Each Reportable Accident, Injury or Illness

5. Circle the Codes Which Best Describe Where Accident/Injury/Illness Occurred (see instructions)
(a) Surface Location: 02 Surface at Underground Mine 30 Mill, Preparation Plant, etc. 03 Strip/Open Pit Mine 04 Surface Auger Operation
05 Culm Bank/Refuse Pile 06 Dredge Mining 12 Other Surface Mining 17 Independent Shops (with own MSHA ID) 99 Office Facilities
(b) Underground Location: 01 Vertical Shaft 02 Slope/Inclined Shaft 03 Face 04 Intersection 05 Underground Shop/Office 06 Other
(c) Underground Mining Method: 01 Longwall 02 Shortwall 03 Conventional Stopping 05 Continuous Miner 06 Hand 07 Caving 08 Other

6. Date of Accident 7. Time of Accident 8. Time Shift Started
Month Day Year 9:30 ☐ am ☒ pm 3:00 ☐ am ☒ pm
5 6 86

9. Describe Fully the Conditions Contributing to the Accident/Injury/Illness, and Quantify the Damage or Impairment

There was a "pillar bump" or coal outburst in the tailgate entry of the 3LW, involving four (4) pillars, caused by earth shift in the gob or small earthquake with pressure build up in the pillars. No top or bottom damage noticed.

10. Equipment Involved Type Manufacturer Model Number

11. Name of Witness to Accident/Injury/Illness 12. Number of Reportable Injuries or Illnesses Resulting from This Occurrence

Al Damm, Lee Green, Teresa King One
13. Name of Injured/Ill Employee 14. Sex 15. Date of Birth

LOYD FELTS ☒ Male ☐ Female Month Day Year
12 20 30

16. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number 17. Regular Job Title 18. Check if this injury/illness resulted in death 19. Check if injury/illness resulted in permanent disability (include amputation, loss of use & permanent total disability).

7107 Maintenance Foreman

20. What Directly Inflicted Injury or Illness? 21. Nature of Injury or Illness

Roof Pressure - Air Concussion Broken Collar Bone

22. Part of Body Injured or Affected 23. Occupational Illness (circle applicable code - see instructions) 21 Occupational Skin Diseases
22 Dust Diseases of the Lungs 23 Respiratory Conditions (toxic agents) 24 Poisoning (toxic materials)

Collar Bone 25 Disorders (physical agents) 26 Disorders (repeated trauma) 29 Other

24. Employee's Work Activity When Injury or Illness Occurred Experience Years Weeks
25. Experience in This Job Title 3 16
26. Experience at This Mine 3 16
27. Total Mining Experience 24 24
Maintenance Foreman
#3 Longwall

● Section D - Return to Duty Information

☐ 28. Permanently Transferred or Terminated (if checked, complete items 29, 30 & 31) 29. Date Returned to Regular Job at Full Capacity (or item 28) 30. Number of Days Away from Work (if none, enter 0) 31. Number of Days Restricted Work Activity (if none, enter 0)
Month Day Year

Person Completing Form (name) Title

Ernie Nicholson, Safety Inspector

Date This Report Prepared (month, day, year) Area Code and Phone Number

5-7-86 205-556-4220 or 556-4221

MSHA Form 7000-1, Feb. 80 (revised)

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Degree
Accident Type
Accident Class
Scheduled Charge
Keyword